

Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church

Early Times

The vision of the Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church is: All infants and toddlers with a developmental need are identified, supported, accepted, included and valued in their family and community.



A Note From the Director by Allan Phillips

Dear Families of ITC,

I hope that you enjoyed some leisure time this summer and had an opportunity to attend at least one of the over 60 wonderful summer activities our Family Support Liaisons planned throughout June, July and August.

Allison, Karyn, Silvia and Tracey have been very busy putting together some outstanding events for ITC families. I encourage you to venture out to an event if you haven't already. There is a great article on page 3 of this newsletter that talks about the ITC story times at Fairfax County Public Libraries. An

ITC story time is a great place to take your child out of the home and socialize with his or her peers.

Many parents and caregivers have commented that attending an ITC event puts them at ease; knowing that their child would be welcomed and cherished by the ITC staff at the event. Our Family Support Liaisons love to say, come as you are because at an ITC event you are free to be yourself.

The events we host are outstanding occasions for children of all ages to enhance their language and communication skills as well

as gain self-confidence through exploration and problem solving.

Our Family Support Liaisons hope to see you soon, so keep an eye out for the winter schedules! For more information about early learning, the article in the link below is an outstanding resource. As always, feel free to contact me if you have a comment or concern about the services you are receiving.

Allan Phillips, Director ITC
Allan.Phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-246-7170

http://www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/parenting-resources/early_learning_handout.pdf

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ITCFF's Purpose:

The Infant & Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church provides early intervention supports and services to infants and toddlers from birth to age three who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay normal development. Early intervention supports and services focus on increasing the child's participation in family and community activities that are important to the family. In addition, supports and services focus on helping parents and other caregivers know how to find ways to help the child learn during everyday activities. These supports and services are available for all eligible children and their families regardless of the family's ability to pay.

Do You Know The AT Team?

The Fairfax County ITC Assistive Technology (AT) Team was created to manage and administer the Assistive Technology Loan Closet. This closet is a resource to families through their therapists to try various pieces of assistive technology before ordering it through insurance or buying it out of pocket.

Assistive technology can consist of large pieces such as medical strollers, bath chairs, standers, and in-home seating systems to smaller items such as switches for switch toys, bumbo seats, compression garments or weights. These items are available on a first

come first serve basis for therapists to check out and loan to a family for up to three months. The therapist and family may elect to come to the office to try several pieces of equipment before checking out as well.

The AT Team works to ensure that the equipment is in safe working condition, build and maintain an inventory of items and items on loan, help with educating therapists on the latest equipment available, and to sanitize equipment upon its return from a family. Even though the AT Team sanitizes the equipment upon return,

we ask that families clean the equipment before returning it to their therapist as it was given to the family clean.

The AT Team also works to provide learning opportunities for therapists by inviting different companies to provide in-services on the latest technology and equipment available on the market. The AT Closet is open to donations of equipment from families who have bought equipment through their insurance once their child has outgrown the equipment.



The AT Team sanitizes and prepares a piece of equipment for loan.

Pathways To Preschool by Mitch Blair, Regional Manager

Pathways to Preschool is a program that ITC sponsors every summer in collaboration with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Every year, many children transition from ITC to early childhood special education classes at FCPS elementary schools. Pathways to Preschool facilitates the success of this transition for both the ITC children and their parents.

This past summer, two Pathways sessions were conducted at each of four different elementary schools, spread throughout the county. Children attended 90-minute sessions three

days a week for two weeks. The classes were taught by FCPS early childhood teachers, with assistance from ITC Service Coordinators. The activities were designed to familiarize the children with classroom routines and to ensure that they enjoy their first classroom experience. Parents stayed in the classroom the first few days so they could see how well their children were doing. On the following days, FCPS early childhood staff met with parents to give them additional information about various aspects of the early childhood special education program. Some of the

parents event got to take a short ride on a school bus!

If your child is old enough to be going through the ITC transition process, your service coordinator will discuss the Pathways program with you this winter. Details about next summer's program will be shared in April.



5th Annual ITC Graduation Celebration by Karen Mead, Regional Manager

The 5th Annual ITC Graduation Celebration was a star-studded event for Infant & Toddler Connection Graduates and their families on August 19 at Daniel's Run Elementary School.

The graduation celebration is held each year to commemorate the accomplishments of both children and family members while receiving Early Intervention services. ITC graduates transition from receiving ITC services to activities in the community— private preschool, private therapy or public school early childhood special education services. Channel 16 covered the graduation event and posted a video on youtube.com which included interviews conducted with Allan Phillips, Director of ITC, and several ITC

families with children who were graduating.

The event was attended by 70 graduates and approximately 250 family members who joined in the festivities with refreshments and activities for all to enjoy. As families arrived they registered, received an "ITC Graduate" t-shirt and stopped at the "ITC Photo Booth" where pictures of the graduate and family members were taken. The excitement continued as the



Deputy County Executive Pat Harrison handing a new graduate her balloon.

children and families walked down a hallway past balloon bouquets and entered the multipurpose room with bubbles, art wall, PlayDoh and coloring!

The Great Zucchini!, "Washington's most popular entertainer for toddlers", performed for the children with interactive fun! Laughter and cheers filled the room throughout the performance

Allan Phillips was Master of Ceremonies for the graduation. Each ITC Graduate came forward accompanied by members of their family to receive a "Certificate of Graduation" in front of a huge balloon arch in the shape of a star. A host of VIP's—Deputy County Executive Pat

Harrison, CSB Executive Director Tisha Deeghan, Deputy Director Michael Lane, Assistant Deputy Director Lyn Tomlinson, as well as CSB Board Chair Gary Ambrose and CSB Board members Lori Stillman and Molly Long—took care in presenting each child with a purple or silver balloon of their very own and congratulating parents as well.

This was a truly touching and memorable graduation for all who attended.



The Great Zucchini! entertaining ITC Graduates

Check out the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUmUmWkemfQ>

End of Summer Bash

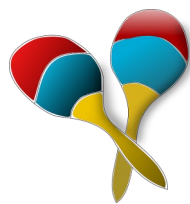
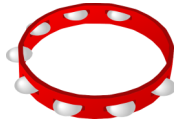
On September 4th, ITC families enjoyed our End of Summer Bash and Popsicle Party. Children and their families were greeted by staff members of ITC at Van Dyck Park in Fairfax where they enjoyed playing at the playground, tossing around beach balls and running through bubbles.

Beth Barbaro (Miss Beth) from Wee Got The Beat was our featured guest. She drew quite a crowd with her guitar, as the children all joined in to sing along with the music. Miss Beth shared a variety of instruments that proved to be a favorite for all the kids. Nobody wanted the fun to end! The day was topped off by popsicles for all.



End of summer bash at Van Dyck Park with Miss Beth

Ms. Beth will be back on October 23rd at Dolley Madison Library for more FUN! You can also check her out at www.weegotthebeat.com. She offers music therapy classes in the Herndon area!



Dad's Pizza Night

Once a month, dads converge at our Fairfax office to share pizza, anecdotes and words of encouragement to fellow dads.

We're talking about a group like no other. Men who know adversity. Dads who worry about the future of their amazing, beautiful, smart, unique kids. Some months they may chat about sleep schedules; some months they

may chat about the Redskins.

Every month they welcome new members. Please consider joining them for Dad's Pizza Night. You'll be glad you came!

They meet the 1st Wednesday of every month from 6 to 7:30pm at the Joseph Willard Health Center, 3750 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030.

For additional information, please

feel free to contact Allan Phillips at allan.phillips@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-246-7170.



Just for Dads...

Story Times Throughout Fairfax County

Through partnerships with Fairfax County Public Libraries, many libraries in the county are offering story times exclusively for the Infant and Toddler Connection of Fairfax-Falls Church.

These story times differ from traditional story times at the library because they are centered around younger children and often incorporate finger plays, songs, rhymes and seasonal themes. Children are widely accepted and are never expected to sit still. At ITC we want to support all infants and toddlers as they are, and will always work to accommodate any special need or request.

Our service model is centered around providing support, inclusion and value to children in their family and community. If you haven't ventured out to an ITC story time yet, please considering giving it a try! You'll be pleasantly surprised!!

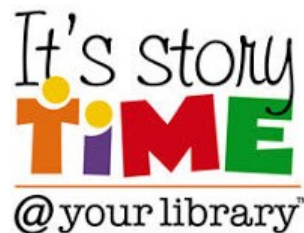


Story time FUN!!

From A Parent:

I just wanted to write and express my appreciation for these events. My son went to the story time this morning and had a wonderful experience!

I have always had trepidation in taking him to public story hours, not knowing how he would respond, but it was so comforting to know that no matter what, he would be accepted and understood at an ITC event.





Infant & Toddler Connection
of Fairfax-Falls Church

**INFANT & TODDLER
CONNECTION OF FAIRFAX-
FALLS CHURCH**

3750 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-246-7121
Fax: 703-653-1385



Friday, November 6th – 10am
Gobble Gobble on the FARM!
Frying Pan Farm Park
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, VA 20171
Contact: Allison Fantauzzi 703-246-5316

Monday, November 9th – 10:30am
Herndon Fortnightly Library
768 Center Street
Herndon, VA
Contact: Allison Fantauzzi 703-246-5316

Monday, November 9th – 10-11am
ITC Story Time
Lorton Library
9520 Richmond Highway
Lorton, VA 22079
Contact: Sylvia Zaleta Meza 703-704-6491

Thursday, November 12th – 10-11am
ITC Terrific Thursday Playgroup
8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 515G
Alexandria, VA
Contact: Sylvia Zaleta Meza 703-704-6491

Monday, November 16th – 10:30am
ITC StoryTime
Centreville Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA
Contact: Karyn Patino 703-449-6142

Subscribe to our listserv to receive news and local event info
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/itc/family-news/>

For more events, please visit our events page at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/itc/events.htm>

Tuesday, November 17th – 10:30am
ITC StoryTime
Chantilly Regional Library
4000 Stringfellow Road
Chantilly, VA
Contact: Karyn Patino 703-449-6142

Wednesday, November 18th – 10:30am
ITC Story Time
City of Fairfax Library
10360 North Street
Fairfax, VA
Contact: Karyn Patino 703-449-6142

Thursday, November 19th – 10:30am
ITC Story Time
Reston Regional Library
11925 Bowman Towne Drive
Reston, VA
Contact: Allison Fantauzzi 703-246-5316

Thursday, November 19th – 10:30am
ITC Story Time
Burke Centre Library
5935 Freds Oak Rd.
Burke, VA 22015
Contact: Karyn Patino 703-449-6142

Thursday, November 19th – 10:30am
Connect-the-Tots Playgroup
ITC of Fairfax-Falls Church
7611 Little River Tpk, East Wing, 2nd Fl
Annandale, VA 22003
Contact: Tracey Phillips Edman

Monday, November 23rd – 10-11am
ITC Story Time
Richard Byrd Library
7250 Commerce Street
Springfield, VA 22150
Contact: Sylvia Zaleta Meza 703-704-6491

Tuesday, November 24th – 11am
FitClub
Providence Community Center
3001 Vaden Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031
By registration only!
Contact: Allison Fantauzzi 703-246-5316

Wednesday, November 25th – 10:30am
L'il Giggles Playgroup
ITC of Fairfax-Falls Church
7611 Little River Tpk, East Wing, 2nd Fl
Annandale, VA 22003
Contact: Tracey Phillips Edman 703-538-7454

Monday, November 30th – 10:30am
Moms of Littles Scrapbooking & Coffee
Patrick Henry Library
101 Maple Avenue East
Vienna, VA
Contact: Allison Fantauzzi 703-246-5316

**The New Winter Schedule Begins
December 1st!**

Things to look for this Winter:
ITC Story Times at 8 different libraries
throughout Fairfax County!
Stroller Strides Class
Play Groups
Music Together Class
Friday FUN Crafts!
Sensational Explorers Social Play Group
Dad's Pizza Night

Also, the Family Support Liaisons are
working on a Resource Fair AND compil-
ing a 'BEST OF' resource survey for ITC
families. Stay tuned!

If you have a photo or a comment you
would like to include in our newsletter,
please contact Allison Fantauzzi at:
Allison.fantauzzi@fairfaxcounty.gov

The cold weather won't stop us!

